

**ANNEX 9**  
**ESF-9 - SEARCH AND RESCUE**

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**PRIMARY:** Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety

**SUPPORT:** Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement; Department of Health and Environmental Control; Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; Department of Transportation, Forestry Commission; SC Law Enforcement Division; Civil Air Patrol; SC National Guard

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Search and Rescue consists of three components:

- A. Urban Search and Rescue. The location, extrication, and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces due to natural disasters, structural collapse, transportation accidents, mines and collapsed trenches, or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harm's way by any emergency or hazardous event when they cannot remove themselves.
- B. Rural Search and Rescue. The location, extrication, and initial medical stabilization of victims from rural settings or locations. Rural search and rescue activities include, but are not limited to:
  - Emergency incidents involving locating missing persons
  - Locating boats lost in or around coastal waters or inland waters
  - Water rescue
  - Locating downed aircraft
  - Extrication if necessary
  - Providing first-aid medical treatment of victims
- C. Aerial Search and Rescue. The use of aviation assets to assist in searching for and/or extricating victims. Aerial search and rescue is used when traditional rescue methods will not be effective.
  - 1. This type of rescue is the most dangerous; therefore is a last resort.
  - 2. Aerial rescue can be used when victims are trapped in areas where there is limited or no access for responders.
  - 3. Aerial search and rescue is not a patient-transporting resource

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. Provide assistance to local authorities for search and rescue operations anywhere in South Carolina.

- B. Provide support as required through Emergency Management Compacts (EMAC).

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR); Division of Fire and Life Safety, is responsible for the coordination of all ESF-9 administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities to include developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-9 SOP.
- B. ESF-9 supporting agencies will assist LLR; Division of Fire and Life Safety, in the planning and execution of the above.
- C. Due to its unique capabilities, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for the coordination of Rural Search and Rescue operations.
- D. ESF-9 personnel will train on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command and integrate those principles into ESF-9 planning and response operations.
- E. ESF-9 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Framework for ESF-9 and the corresponding Annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the organization, structure, functions and responsibilities of the Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- F. ESF-9 will coordinate with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations to ensure continual operational readiness.
- G. In coordination with and in support of the Counties, ESF-9 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and in coordination with local Emergency Management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency.
- H. Local governments/assistance.
  - 1. Local governments should organize, train, equip, and employ local teams and resources; conduct periodic testing of team capabilities and be prepared to coordinate the integration of local efforts with State and Federal assistance teams when necessary.
  - 2. Local governments will activate applicable plans for the appropriate use of personnel and equipment tasked for search and rescue missions.
  - 3. Local Emergency Management organizations may coordinate with adjacent Counties for additional support.
  - 4. ESF-9 will make every effort to support local equipment and personnel needs when requested and to integrate local resources when appropriate

into a regional or statewide response.

5. At the request of local officials, ESF-9 will coordinate the State search and rescue response.
  - a. If approved ESF-9 will stage assets before actual requests are forwarded. When State assets are exhausted, or in anticipation of large-scale disasters beyond the State's capability, ESF-9 will coordinate procurement of other State or Federal assets.
  - b. ESF-9 will integrate the use of all search and rescue personnel and resources made available.
- I. The Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000 mobilizes search and rescue services statewide to respond to any type of emergency that requires additional resources. ESF-9 will use the mobilization plan to obtain additional search and rescue resources, as needed.
- J. ESF-9 will coordinate deployment of liaison staff to County EOCs and/or the local Unified Command Post to support the implementation of this plan and supporting SOP.
- K. ESF-9 will coordinate deployment of aviation search and rescue resources and send liaison staff to County EOCs and/or the local Unified Command Post, to support the rescue operations.
- L. ESF-9 will coordinate with Federal ESF-9 to obtain Federal assistance as required.

#### **IV. ESF ACTIONS**

The emergency operations necessary for the performance of this function include, but are not limited to:

- A. Preparedness.
  1. Maintain a current inventory of State resources, including qualified trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations.
  2. Maintain records reflecting local capability.
  3. Participate in State exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-9 exercise to validate this Annex and supporting SOPs.
  4. Maintain liaison with Federal urban search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets.
  5. Ensure State personnel and equipment are maintained in a state of

readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.

6. Assist local governments in training of personnel and rescue organizations for land and water search and rescue operations.
7. Ensure ESF-9 personnel train on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command, and integrate those principles into ESF-1 planning and response operations.
8. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement.
9. Provide ESF representation to the Recovery Task Force.
10. Support the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) by ensuring ESF personnel are trained on EMAC responsibilities, by pre-identifying assets, needs and resources that may be allocated to support other states, and by maintaining related information in WebEOC.

**B. Response.**

1. Support local agencies with appropriate resources, to include mobilizing and deploying teams and equipment as needed.
2. Using the Incident Command System, assume responsibility for coordinating and tracking all resources committed to an incident. This may include placing personnel at a forward command post.
3. Establish staging areas for an incident with the requesting group.
4. Deploy liaison teams to County EOC or incident base of operations, as needed.
5. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.
6. Coordinate other State and Federal support for search and rescue operations to include planning for reception and deployment to area of operations.
7. Coordinate with ESF-1 (Transportation) for transportation of rescue teams or rescued victims or persons evacuated from an emergency area to a safe location or emergency shelter.
8. Coordinate types air support assets to support search and rescue operations.

9. Identify and provide a liaison officer for each EMAC request, to facilitate arrival and onward movement of EMAC support at appropriate EMAC Mobilization Units and staging areas.

**C. Recovery.**

1. Continue to support local operations and plan for a reduction of operations.
2. Anticipate and plan for arrival of, and coordination with, FEMA ESF-9 personnel in the SEOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
3. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement.
4. ESF-9 will support long-term recovery priorities as identified by the Long-term Recovery Committee and Recovery Task Force.

**D. Mitigation.**

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures including monitoring and updating mitigation actions in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Review, evaluate, and comment on proposed State Hazard Mitigation Plan amendments, upon initiation and within review period.
3. Support requests and directives from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
4. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

**V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. General.**

1. Each ESF-9 agency will train personnel on EMAC procedures to include identifying agency resources to sustain emergency operations, pre-scripting anticipated needs on specific EMAC messages, and listing agency resources available for interstate and intrastate mutual aid missions.
2. ESF-9 agencies will maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.

**B. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Division of Fire and Life Safety**

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to staff ESF-9 in the SEOC.

2. Identify and maintain a current resource inventory of all known search and rescue assets within the state.
  3. Identify and train liaison teams.
  4. Coordinate search and rescue team deployment, employment, and redeployment.
  5. Coordinate logistical support for search and rescue assets during field operations.
  6. Develop policies and procedures for the effective use and coordination of search and rescue assets.
  7. Coordinate South Carolina urban search and rescue assets to support urban search and rescue operations.
  8. Provide trained rescue personnel to support short haul and hoist rescue operations as part of SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART).
- C. Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement
1. Plan, coordinate, and execute Rural Search and Rescue operations.
  2. Provide search and rescue teams, technical assistance, equipment, and communications support.
- D. Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Provide technical information, EMS support, and hazardous materials technical assistance.
- E. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
- Provide personnel for search operations.
- F. Forestry Commission
- Provide communications, personnel, equipment, to include air assets, and transportation.
- G. SC Law Enforcement Division
- Provide security, personnel, tracking dogs, and air assets, specifically, helicopters with rescue hoist capabilities.
- H. Civil Air Patrol
1. Provide aerial photography during search and rescue missions.

2. Provide trained personnel and equipment for air and ground search operations.
  3. Provide aircraft, aircrews, and ground and operations personnel and communications for transportation of emergency officials, personnel, light-load cargo, and for various aerial reconnaissance flights.
- I. SC National Guard
1. Provide trained personnel and aircraft to support short haul and hoist rescue operations as part of SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART).
  2. Be prepared to provide Aviation Support Operations Center (ASOC) in support of aerial rescue operations.

## **VI. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

- A. This Annex is supported by the National Response Framework for Federal ESF-9 (Search and Rescue).
- B. The Regional Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is authorized to provide Federal assistance as emergency protective measures under the emergency and major disaster provisions of the National Response Framework.
- C. Federal ESF-9 will generally be a part of the Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) and may be represented on any advance element of that team.
- D. National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System.
1. Federal ESF-9 rapidly deploys components of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System.
  2. The Federal SAR Response System is composed of the primary agencies that provide specialized SAR operations during incidents or potential incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.
  3. This includes structural collapse US&R, waterborne search and rescue, inland/wilderness search and rescue and aeronautical search and rescue.
- E. The National US&R Response System is an integrated system of US&R task forces, Incident Support Teams (IST), and technical specialists.
1. The system is built around a core of task forces primarily staffed by local emergency services personnel who are prepared to deploy immediately and initiate US&R operations.

2. There are currently 28 task forces organized in seven functional teams (Management, Search, Rescue, Planning, Logistics, Medical, and Hazmat), with each team staffed to permit 24-hour operations. On activation, US&R task forces become Federal assets.
3. ISTs provide coordination and logistical support to US&R task forces during emergency operations. They also provide needs assessments and provide technical advice.
4. Technical specialists provide expertise in various US&R disciplines to supplement task force and IST resources.